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THE

SECOND CHAPTER

OF

PATRICK'S

PURGATORY, &c.



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OF

E. A. T. R. I. C. K. S.



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PATRICK'S PURGATORY, &c.

AT the close of the last Chapter we left the *Overseer*, *Attorney*, and *Chaplain*, laying their heads together how to baffle *Dolly*, and her comrade *Harry*. It was *Patrick's* misfortune they were all three of brother *George's* family, and, by consequence, had little kindness for him; and if they had ever so much, they durst not shew it; for *George* was as jealous as an old *keeper*. He was, to be sure, one of the unaccountablest fellows in the world; and, to explain a great deal will come after in this *history*, I will describe him and his two brothers, and the circumstances they were in. Little can be said of their birth with certainty, or whether they were ever christened, as the parish registers were lost. It was surmized none of them were lawfully begotten; and one thing is certain, their mother was a common whore in her youth, and *surrender'd* to every one that woo'd her briskly; though, it must be own'd, like other ladies, she grew *chaster* as she grew old. *George* and *Andrew* were twins*, and had

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often

* Here the Translator of the Fragment is strangely out when he makes *Andrew* the youngest; but, indeed, he knows nothing about the family at all.

often try'd *titles* in the *commons*: but *George*, by having the longer purse, and bribing *Andrew's* lawyers, always got a decree in his favour; though most people thought the other was the elder. *Patrick*, though the youngest, seem'd to have one advantage, that his estate was so bounded there could be no dispute on that head, or puzzle about *marches* and land-marks, which set the other two often at daggers-drawing. And yet, whatever was the reason, he and *George* were not the better friends for it. They were all *particular* in their humours; but *George* was downright whimsical. He hated every one that loved him, and doated on them that hated him. *Andrew* hated him on *principle*; and yet he gave him every thing he ask'd. *Patrick* was still doing him good turns; yet he hated him like poison, and grudged every thing he got for himself. *George* had been very hospitable, and kept open house for all comers and goers; but, of late, grew a mere churl. It was impossible to say what sort of a house *Andrew* kept, as people seldom went to see him, and seldomer found him at home; but to hear him talk, you would think his estate was the land of *Canaan*, and his house kept in plenty like my Lord Mayor's. All the world might see how *Patrick* lived; for he never was content till he was eaten out of house and home; and it was ridiculous enough to see the poverty and plenty was about him at the same time: when he wanted shoes and stockings, he would buy the best to be had in the market, and sell his shirt to get drink. *George's* people would stay whole months with him, and drink till they *stared*; and yet, when they went home, the worst word they had was too good for him. *Andrew* saved them the trouble of going to see him, (for he was not nice on the point of having visits return'd) and always made the second visit, instead of receiving it. He and *George* were constantly together, and yet there was but one thing they agreed in, namely, to hate *Patrick* most cordially; for, in every thing else, their humours differ'd, even to eating and drinking. *George* was for strong beer and pudding; *Andrew* for *swats* and *bagas*. *George* cou'd not live without bacon; and *Andrew* hated pork like a Jew.

Patrick's

Patrick's Overseer happen'd, most an end, to be one of *George's* family ; though the best *Overseers* he ever had were of his own. It is no wonder then, considering *George's* humour, that he did every thing to please his master ; but the mischief was, he thought he must still do something new for *George's* pleasure, whereby to recommend himself at home. Now, till *Harry* the coachman came in play, they used to do every year something about new regulations, or new improvements, which did *Patrick* neither good nor hurt ; and, as he was poor, went no farther ; but when *Harry* had govern'd the affairs of the family a few years, they mended so surprizingly, that, instead of borrowing money, *Patrick* had more than he knew how to lay out. This was a time for the *Overseer* to do something for himself ; and *Patrick* had never grudged it, if, at the same time, he had done any thing for him ; but to make him compliments and presents, for cramping and hindering his business, seem'd, even to *Patrick*, (who was none of your very acute men) to be a little unreasonable ; and for the *Overseer* to expect it, was really such an insult as would hardly be offer'd to any but one of *Patrick's* understanding. Yet this was the cause of all the quarrel between *Dolly* and the *Overseer*, who was something too *stately* for his means ; and because he came of a good family, kept a port above his income. He first wheedled *Harry* for his interest with the *bouse-maid*, and did several little things for him and his friends ; and *Harry*, in return, made *Dolly* very civil to him ; and she got *Patrick* to comply with him in other little things ; and they had a good understanding together. Beside, the *Overseer* and *Harry* were cousins.

But now it happen'd this *Overseer*, being a man of parts, would strike a bold stroke. He put a question to the *Attorney*, whether he was obliged, by *law* or *custom*, to account with *Patrick* for the money of ~~his~~ he had the command of ? The *Attorney* told him, there was a custom for it, indeed ; but how the *law* stood, was a doubt. *Dolly*, he found, after twenty trials, would not give her consent to his handling it after the manner he wanted ; so, at all events, she must be laid aside, and her friend *Harry* sent a packing. But he found, for the present, he had reckon'd without his host ; and *Harry* gave him such

such a *set-down* when he attempted it, as he'll not forget in haste; or ever be rightly his own man again till he gets *Harry* out of the *box*.

As we said before, there was no *safe way* of doing it, but by putting *Jenny Minor* in a condition to vie with *Dolly*, and get the ascendant over *Patrick*: and the methods they took to do it were at once barefaced and shameful. They were not at the trouble of putting a gloss on their proceedings. They openly declared, and printed, and *publisb'd* *, to all manner of persons, who could hear, see, or read, that no favours were to be expected, or any indulgence to be given to any but *Jenny's* friends; that whoever would forsake *Harry* and *Dolly*, and do the *Overseer's* pleasure, or, to use their phrase, *would serve Mr. George*, should have all they ask'd. On both sides were some, who were not *out of the want of cash*, though very good people, and good house-keepers; and others, who would take money from the d——l, if they knew where he was to be spoken with. All the last they were sure of getting; the former came in slow, and, to their everlasting character and credit, many of them chose content with little, before wealth and power, and the curse of their kindred.

They had other tricks beside, to try to blindfold *Patrick*, make an ass of him, and then laugh at him behind his back. They wanted to make him jealous of *Dolly*, and wonder'd a man of his sense should be said by such a drunken corrupted jade; or what he could see in *Harry* to take such a liking to him; that he was too clumsy to make a right figure in the box, or drive with an air; besides, he could never be his friend; for, as all he had depended on *Patrick's* prosperity, he must, consequently, endeavour to ruin him; and as *Dolly* held the best farms under him, she would certainly betray his title to the estate: But that the *Chaplain*, having no concerns but a lease for life †, and his salary, must, of course, advise him

the

* L—d H——'s letter. D— D——'s letter.

† The author means, if he had good luck, it might be a lease for life; but I don't think it was the express tenure he held it by.

the best way of improving his estate, and ordering his family, for the good of his posterity. *Patrick*, however, did not readily take the force of their argument, but held his tongue, till he heard what else they had to say.

There's *John* the market-man, says another, the prettiest fellow in Christendom, and would make an excellent *coachman*, especially in foul ways; if you speak him fair, I don't doubt but you may have him, and you can't do any thing will oblige miss *Jenny* more.

Look you, gentlemen, (says *Patrick*) as for obliging miss *Jenny* I shall consider on it. I think she keeps bad company at present, and is too fond of a domineering *Captain* I see often with her. But, to say God's truth, I can find no fault with *Harry*; he drives *steady* and *smooth*, and I was never once in danger of being overturn'd by him. *John* may drive well in *faul roads*, for aught I know, but I see no occasion of getting into them, and shall hardly venture through them, only to let him shew his judgment in the box. I have reason to think miss *Dolly* very honest, though she will take a cup now and then; and if *Jenny* has been sober, I fear me much, it was only because she has been stinted; for whenever any friend would treat her, and she got on the merry pin, she would not baulk her glass, or refuse a *sentiment*, though it were *sheer barudy*. So, gentlemen, upon the whole, I must see farther reason ere I take your advice.

Patrick all the while was ignorant of the *Overseer's* designs, and thought *all this ado* was only a trial of skill between *Dolly* and *Jenny*, *John* and *Harry*; but when he came to get a clue to direct him through the *maze*, and saw what was *hatching* and *breeding* against him, he was quite thunder-struck, began to find *folks out*, and how they had *core him in hand*, whilst they were plotting and contriving, and telling *him* and *his* for *ever and a day*. He now found out what had puzzled him before; why it was that all his brother *George's* people, to a man, were always trying to *pick holes* in *Harry's* coat, though he had befriended them more than he ought, and often recommended them to him for favours, when *Patrick* had no good opinion of them; why the *Boatman*, the *Seneschal*, and even the *cox-*
comb

troub Attorney, were every foot crying him down, setting themselves up, and talking like princes, " We shall do this and that: We must put a stop to these exorbitant pretences " of miss *Dolly* and the *Coachman*." when the jest was, they had nothing to say to the family business; and (except the *Seneschal*) were only paid their wages for what they did very indifferently; and for the *Attorney's* part, for any thing he knew of law, they might as well have made a dancing-master of him, as *deputy of the court-baron*. All this came into his mind in an instant: it was easy to put upon him under pretence of kindness; but when he found himself made a fool of, he had often taught his saucy companions to change tune, and make them dance in their turn with a witness.

He took leave of his advisers for a few days, to consider what had best be done; and his *resolutions* will be seen in the sequel of our history; and, in the next Chapter, how *Harry* advised the *Overseer* to drop some of his projects.

END OF THE SECOND CHAPTER.



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